



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

## **Public Notice**

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Public Notice No.  
**CENAP-PL-E-05-02**

Date  
**18 February 2005**

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Internet Homepage <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil>

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In Reply Refer to: Environmental Resources Branch

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Milford, proposes to financially assist Authority acquisition of 28.01 acres of property which overlies a highly sensitive section of the Authority's source water aquifer (Figure 1).

Corps' participation in the land acquisition project is authorized under Section 313 of the 1992 Water Resources Development Act, as amended. Section 313 established a pilot program to provide design and construction assistance for water related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects for non-Federal interests in a certain portion of Pennsylvania. The Fiscal Year 1996 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill and 1996 Water Resources Development Act expanded the scope of the program to include additional locations. The non-Federal sponsor is the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Milford.

The purpose of the project is to acquire 28.01 acres of property (Samall Property) which overlies a highly sensitive section of the source water aquifer. The property borders and is part of the watershed of the State designated Exceptional Value (EV) Sawkill Creek and Schocopee Road in Milford Township near highway Route 84 and 6 interchange. The acquisition of this property would provide additional protection for the drinking water supply of current and future Authority customers as per the Milford Water Authority Source Water Protection Program. It would provide opportunities for Pinchot Greenway Trail development and a potential joint intermunicipal recreation facility. The project would also support the goals of the Sawkill Creek and Vandermark Creek Watershed: A Rivers Conservation Plan completed in August 2004.

A Draft Environmental Assessment has been prepared which evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The Environmental Assessment was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Potential impacts were assessed with regard to the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem, endangered and threatened species, hazardous and toxic materials, aesthetics and recreation, cultural resources, and the general needs and welfare of the public

The proposed watershed source protection land acquisition action has been coordinated with various agencies and interests as part of the Municipal Authorities Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant application. The interests and agencies coordinated with include the United States Department of Interior, National Park Service; Pike County Conservation District; United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Watershed Management; Pike County Commission; Pike County Community Planning; Borough of Milford; and Delaware Highlands Conservancy. All comments received on this proposal will be given appropriate consideration.

The Draft Environmental Assessment has determined that the proposed activity is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any species or the critical habitat of any fish, wildlife or plant, which is designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. No negative impacts are anticipated to the aquatic environments. No known properties listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places will be negatively affected by the proposed activity. The acquisition and protection of 28.01 acres of property which overlies a highly sensitive section of the Borough's source water aquifer is expected to include improvements and protection of aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

The decision whether to accomplish the work proposed in this public notice will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed work on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonable foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered. Among those are conservation, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, general environmental concerns, economics, historic values, energy needs, recreation, safety, water quality, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. Copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment, Draft Finding of No Significant Impact, and Public Notice are available for review on the Philadelphia District web page at [www.nap.usace.army.mil](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil). A request for copies of these documents can be made by calling the Philadelphia District, Environmental Resources Branch at (215) 656-6561. Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice (**22 February through 24 March**) that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described in this public notice and/or in the Draft Environmental Assessment should be directed to Mr. Minas M. Arabatzis, ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390 by **24 March 2005**.

Minas M. Arabatzis  
Chief, Planning Division  
Philadelphia District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT  
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